DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Q. What is Saudi Arabia's manpower capacity to absorb high technology systems without additional requirements for U.S. technicians? How many U.S. military and civilian personnel are now stationed in Saudi Arabia in connection with previous sales of U.S. military hardware to that country? How many additional U.S. military and civilian personnel will be required to be stationed in Saudi Arabia if this entire package (the AWACS, F-15 enhancement, and KC-135 tankers) is approved?

A. Both we and the Saudis have long recognized that a shortage of trained manpower could limit Saudi ability to absorb U.S. military equipment. Saudi Arabia has a long range training program to provide the necessary operations and maintenance skills for its military personnel.

-- Until Saudi personnel acquire these skills, U.S. military and civilian contractor personnel will play an important role in supporting Saudi military equipment.

-- There are currently about 500 U.S. military personnel and 3,000 U.S. civilian contractor personnel in Saudi Arabia in connection with ongoing military programs.

-- We estimate that about 600-700 additional USG military and civilian personnel and about 650 civilian contractor personnel will be needed in Saudi Arabia in support of the additional equipment under consideration. These personnel would be phased out as trained Saudis become available to take their place. However, about 300 U.S. civilian contractor personnel will be needed in Saudi Arabia (undefinately) to help support the AWACS, F-15, and tanker systems there.